(d) As assessed by various Committees the possibility of similar occurrences in the nearby areas cannot be ruled out.

Export of wheat below world prices

1678. SHRI K.R. MALKANI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has been exporting wheat at well below world prices as reported in the Indian Express, dated 21st May, 1996;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether USA, Morocco and Turkey rejected Indian wheat consignments on ground of fungus infection as reported in the Financial Express, dated 21st May, 1996; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) and (b) It is not possible to accurately compare the prices of commodities traded by various countries in the international markets on account of different varieties traded, variations in quality and additional expenditure incurred in grading and packaging for exports.

(c) and (d) A small number of consignments of wheat from India were detained by the Turkish, Moroccan and Polish authorities as they were found to be infected by Tilletia Indica (Karnal Bunt) fungus.

Criteria for allocation of foodgains etc. to the states under PDS

1679. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the various factors which are taken into consideration for the allocation of foodgrains, imported edible oil and soft coke for Public Distribution System of the States;

(b) the details of allocations of foodgrains, sugar, imported edible oil and soft coke made to the State of Maharashtra during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) whether it is a fact that one percent increase each in allocation during 1996-97 over the year 1995-96 was made for the State;

(d) if so, whether Government purpose to increase it further in 1996-97 and 1997-98; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) Allocation of foodgrains for the Public Distribution System (PDS) from the Central Pool is made on month to month basis taking into account availability of stocks in the Central Pool, inter-se demands of the States/UTs, market availability of commodities, offtake trends and other related factors.

(b) The details of allocation of foodgrains, sugar, imported edible oil and soft coke made to the State of